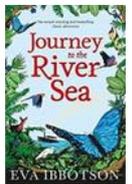


The Rainforest- Year 4



Core Text: Journey to the River Sea by Eva Ibbotson



This unit of work focuses on the Rainforests. Children will locate rainforests around the world, looking at how they are distributed and why. They will then focus specifically on the geography of the Amazon rainforests and explore the threats to our rainforests and possible solutions. Focus will then move to the rainforests of central America where children will travel back in time to explore the ancient Maya and consider their contribution to the modern world. Finally, they will apply their knowledge of the rainforest to create a painting in the style of Rousseau.

By the end of this unit, I will know:

- The Amazon Rainforest is located in South America.
- Rainforests are under threat from a number of sources including deforestation, industry and animal hunting and half of the forest which we once had, is gone.
- Groups of people all over the world are working to protect the forests.
- There are 2 different types of rainforest- temperate and tropical. The climate in the Amazon rainforest is the same the whole year round- hot and humid.
- Rainforests are found near to the equator between the tropic of Cancer and the tropic of Capricorn.
- There are 4 layers of the rainforest- emergent, canopy, understory and forest floor.
- There are many different species of plants and animals found in the rainforest which are not found anywhere else on Earth.
- Many things which are found in our homes come from the rainforest including chocolate, sugar, rubber and many medicines.
- The Maya were a civilisation who lived in Mesoamerica (now Central America) between approximately 2000 BCE and 900CE.
- They are known for being the first Mesoamericans to develop writing.
- They also had a sophisticated culture in which they lived in city states.
- They built spectacular monuments and stepped pyramids – some (e.g. Chichen Itza) have become world tourist destinations.
- They were also well-known for their advanced maths and calendars.
- Around 900CE, Maya cities became abandoned. No one knows for sure why this happened.
- The Maya believed in and worshipped a number of different gods. They believed that the gods had a good side and a bad side and that the gods could help or hurt them. The Maya would dance, sing and sometimes make offerings of blood to the gods.

Key Geography Skills:

- Understand the term climate zone and use maps to identify the different climate zones.
- Understand and use the term biome.
- Reason about key physical and human characteristics of regions studied.
- Use digital maps to locate and investigate places.

Key History Skills:

- Use dates to order significant events from the periods studied.
- Use research findings to pose new questions.
- Suggest which sources of evidence could be used to find out about the period studied.
- Use their own sources to find out/infer relevant information about the past.

Key Art Skills:

- Use sketch books to collect, record and review artistic ideas from a range of different sources.
- Use techniques to show the effects of light on form (reflection/shadow).
- Understand the colour wheel and colour spectrums.
- Use paint to create texture.
- Know about and describe the work of some artists, craftspeople, architects and designers
- Be able to explain how to use some of the tools and techniques they have chosen to work with.



Key Vocabulary

rainforest	A dense forest found in tropical areas.
ecosystem	A community of plants and animals which depend on each other to survive.
climate	The weather conditions in a particular area.
biome	A large community of plants and animals occupying a major habitat,
sustainability	The ability to exist constantly.
deforestation	The action of clearing wide areas of trees.
endangered	A species which is seriously at the risk of extinction.
humid	Damp due to water vapour in the air.
maize	Another word for sweetcorn or corn on the cob. It can be made into a dough and baked into tortillas.
codices	Ancient handwritten texts. Maya codices could be unfolded like a concertina. One text is called a codex.
civilisation	Human society which is organised.
dynasty	A series of rulers or leaders who are all from the same family, or a period when a country is ruled by them
kingdom	A place ruled by a king, queen or important person.
temple	A building used for the worship of a god or gods in some religions.
tomb	A large stone structure or underground room where someone, especially an important person, is buried.
ritual	A ceremony, often religious, with set actions performed in a set order.